

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A video processing device as controller  
equipment comprising:

video requesting and receiving means for receiving  
5 a video from a video transmitting device via a  
communication line, the video transmitting device  
selectively synthesizing a sub-video on a transmitted  
video;

sub-video synthesizing means for selectively  
10 synthesizing a sub-video on the received video obtained  
by the video requesting and receiving means;

display means for displaying the received video  
with the sub-video synthesized thereon by the sub-video  
synthesizing means;

15 sub-video synthesis status checking means for  
checking the received video for a sub-video synthesis  
status by transmitting a check request for checking of  
a sub-video synthesis status to said video transmitting  
device via said communication line and receiving a  
20 response to said check signal via the communication  
line from said video transmitting device as a video  
source; and

sub-video controlling means for controlling a sub-  
video display status of said sub-video synthesizing  
25 means depending on the sub-video synthesis status  
checked by the sub-video synthesis status checking  
means.

2. A video processing device comprising:

sub-video synthesizing means for selectively  
synthesizing a sub-video on a transmitted video;

video transmitting means for transmitting the  
5 video with the sub-video synthesized thereon by the  
sub-video synthesizing means, to a video display device  
via a communication line; and

sub-video synthesis status notifying means for  
notifying said video display device of a sub-video  
10 synthesis status of said sub-video synthesizing means  
via the communication line in response to a sub-video  
synthesis status check request transmitted from said  
video display device.

3. A video processing device according to claim 1  
15 or 2, wherein said communication line comprises a fast  
serial bus.

4. A video processing device according to claim 1  
or 2, wherein said sub-video synthesizing means  
synthesizes a video of a menu selection or of a control  
20 panel used to control the device, as said sub-video.

5. A communication device according to claim 1,  
wherein said sub-video controlling means changes a  
display form of a displayed item to be synthesized by  
said sub-video synthesizing means when said sub-video  
25 synthesis status checking means determines that the  
received video changes to a sub-video synthesis status.

6. A communication device according to claim 5,

wherein said sub-video controlling means recovers the display form of the displayed item which has been changed by said sub-video synthesizing means, to the original display form when said sub-video synthesis  
5 status checking means determines that the received video changes to a sub-video non-synthesis status.

7. A video processing device according to claim 1, wherein said sub-video synthesis status checking means checks a range in which the sub-video is to be  
10 synthesized on the received video, and said sub-video controlling means controls said sub-video synthesizing means so that a displayed position of the sub-video to be synthesized will not overlap the range in which the sub-video is synthesized on the received video.

15 8. A video processing device according to claim 1, wherein based on a result of the check by said sub-video synthesis state checking means, an identifying sub-video is synthesized on a displayed video, the identifying sub-video clearly showing whether the  
20 currently displayed sub-video is from the video processing device or from said video transmitting device.

9. A video processing device according to claim 1, wherein based on a result of the check by said sub-  
25 video synthesis state checking means, an identifying sub-video is synthesized on a displayed video, said sub-video controlling means provides such control that

a sub-video having the same contents as the sub-video being synthesized on the received image by means of said sub-video synthesizing means.

10. A video processing device according to claim 1,  
5 further comprising input means for inputting user operations and operation target selecting means for switching an operation target based on a result of the check by said sub-video synthesis state checking means.